

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following paragraph at the beginning of the specification.

This application is a 371 of international application PCT/JP2003/017014, which claims priority based on Japanese patent application No. 2002-379796 filed December 27, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16 line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ~~artificial blood vessel~~ nerve regeneration-inducing tube of the present invention is preferably sterilized by a known method such as  $\gamma$ -ray sterilization or ultraviolet radiation sterilization before it is used for a medical purpose. When collagen is used as a biodegradable material or bioabsorbable material, thermal sterilization is not preferred because the heat resistance of collagen is low.